

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9341
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU
SUBJECT: MINORITIES QUESTION

REF: ATHENS 669 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO THE MARCH 2 SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY (ANA) BULLETIN, THE FEBRUARY 28 ISSUE OF THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TURKISH BULLETIN REPORTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL, IN REPLYING TO A TURKISH PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTY, STATED THAT WHEN THE LAUSANNE TREATY WAS SIGNED (I.E. IN 1923) THERE WERE 20,000 GREEKS IN TURKEY AND 220,000 TURKS IN GREECE IN CONTRAST TO THE PRESENT WHEN THERE ARE 17,000 GREEKS IN TURKEY AND 117,000 TURKS IN GREECE.

2. QUOTING OFFICIAL DATE OF THE GREEK MFA, THE ANA REPORT STATES THAT, BASED ON THE 1934 CENSUS OF THE MINORITIES IN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH WAS CONDUCTED, ACCORDING TO ANA, BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A MIXED INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE, THE GREEK MINORITY (INCLUDING GREEK SUBJECTS, TURKISH SUBJECTS OF GREEK DESCENT, AND INHABITANTS OF THE ISLANDS OF IMVROS AND TENEDOS) NUMBERED 111,000. THE MOSLEM MINORITY IN GREECE IN 1934 NUMBERED 106,000. AT PRESENT, THE ANA CONTINUED, THE GREEK MINORITY IN TURKEY IS ESTIMATED AT 10,000-15,000, WHILE THE MOSLEMS IN GREECE HAVE INCREASED TO 120,000.

3. ACCORDING TO OTHER SOURCES, THE ANA REPORT NOTED, THE NUMBER OF GREEKS LIVING IN CONSTANTINOPLE (ISTANBUL) IN 1922 WAS 350,000 WAS REDUCED TO 200,000 IN 1923, TO 150,000 IN 1933, TO 110,000 FROM 1948 TO 1955, TO 80,000 AFTER THE 1955 EVENTS, TO 30,000 IN 1964, AND TO 8,000 IN 1976.

4. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY THE GOG BELIEVES ITS POSITION IS THE STRONGER IN THIS NUMBERS GAME WITH THE GOT CONCERNING THEIR RESPECTIVE MINORITIES. IN CITING THEIR STATISTICS, THE GREEKS MADE THE POINT THAT THE INCREASE IN THE "MOSLEM" MINORITY IN GREECE OVER THE YEARS PROVES THE FAVORABLE TREATMENT IT RECEIVES FROM THE GOG, IN CONTRAST TO THE "PERSECUTION" AND HARASSMENT OF GREEKS IN TURKEY WHICH HAS LED TO A DRAMATIC DROP IN THE SIZE OF THAT MINORITY.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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